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Declaration

I, Yukio IWAMOTO a national of Japan, c/o Asamura Patent Office of 331-340, New Ohtemachi Building, 2-1, Ohtemachi-2-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan do hereby solemnly and sincerely declare:-

- 1) THAT I am well acquainted with the Japanese language and English language, and
- 2) THAT the attached is a full, true, accurate and faithful translation into the English language made by me of Japanese Text of the U.S. Serial No. 09/621,136 filed on July 20, 2000.

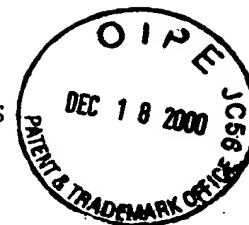
The undersigned declares further that all statements made herein of his own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001, of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Signed this 30th day October of 2000.

Yukio IWAMOTO

Patent Attorney

APPARATUS FOR TREATING IMAGES



The present invention relates to an apparatus for treating images on respective pages, particularly to an apparatus for treating images by combining data of the images to a data of a composite image including the images.

In a prior art copy machine, for forming a composite image by printing a plurality of images on one copy sheet, the images on sheets arranged on a scanner of the copy machine are read respectively to print the images on the one copy sheet, or the sheets are supplied to the scanner one-sheet by one-sheet to read the images on the sheets respectively so that the images are printed on the one copy sheet.

15 OBJECT AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An object of the present invention is to provide an apparatus for treating images by combining datas of the images to a data of a composite image including the images, by which apparatus, contents of the composite image can be easily edited, and/or an arrangement of the images in the composite image formed by combining the images of various sizes or dimensions can be easily and appropriately determined.

An apparatus for treating images by combining

[illegible]

5 combining device for combining the datas of the images
input from the image recording device to the data of
the composite image including the images, and
outputting the data of the composite image.

10 datas of the images input from the image recording
device to the data of the composite image including the
images, contents of the composite image (an arrangement
of the images in the composite image) can be easily
edited, and/or an arrangement of the images in the
15 composite image formed by combining the images of
various sizes or dimensions can be easily and
appropriately determined.

20 images in the composite image) and/or determining
easily and appropriately the arrangement of the images
in the composite image formed by combining the images
of various sizes or dimensions that the datas
independent of each other are stored in the image
25 recording device.

It is preferable for editing easily the contents of the composite image and/or determining easily and appropriately the arrangement of the images

in the composite image formed by combining the images of various sizes or dimensions that an information for identifying a turn number of each of the datas of the images stored in the image recording device in an order is attached to the each of the data of the images. The datas of the images may be taken into and stored by the image recording device, one data by one data. The images may be read to be converted to the datas of the images, one image by one image. The information for identifying the turn number of the each of the datas of the images in the order, in which order the datas of the images are taken into the image recording device, may be attached to the each of the datas of the images. The information for identifying the turn number of the each of the datas of the images in the order, in which order the images are read to be converted to the datas of the images, may be attached to the each of the datas of the images. The turn numbers of the datas may be desirably set to form the order. The turn number attached to the data may be changeable. The information for identifying the turn number of the each of the datas may be included by the each of the datas (as, for example, a file name of the each of the datas). The informations for identifying the turn numbers of a plurality of the datas may correspond to respective codes for identifying recording areas for storing respectively the plurality of the datas (by, for example, setting in the image recording device or in a

5 numbers of the plurality of the datas).

10 by a data of another image which is newly read. A

15 in such a manner that the images are arranged on the

25 input device includes picture elements, each of which

read by each of the picture elements is changeable.
The area of the part of the each of the images to be
read by the each of the picture elements may be changed
in accordance with a dimension of the each of the
5 images to be read.

The apparatus may further comprise a printing
device for printing the composite image on a work-piece
on the basis of the data of the composite image, where-
in the area of the part of the each of the images to be
10 read by the each of the picture elements is changed in
accordance with at least one of a dimension of the
composite image to be printed and a dimension of the
each of the images to be read so that the images are
included by the composite image.

15 The image combining device may combine the
datas of the images to the data of the composite image
including the images in such a manner that side edges
of the images adjacent to each other are aligned along
an imaginary straight line on the composite image. The
20 image combining device may combine the datas of the
images to the data of the composite image including the
images in such a manner that side edges of the images
adjacent to each other face to each other and are
parallel to each other on the composite image. The
25 image combining device may combine the datas of the
images to the data of the composite image including the
images in such a manner that side edges of the images
adjacent to each other contact each other. The image

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An image treating device according to the invention is constructed to read the images to input the datas of the images, to record the input datas of the images, to convert the recorded datas of the images compositely to an image data for printing an continuous arrangement thereof, to print the compositely converted image datas on a continuous printing medium, and to edit the recorded datas of the images to print as a second time on the printing medium.

According to the invention, by printing the continuous arrangement of the recorded datas of the images read from manuscripts, editing the data of the image corresponding to unsatisfactory one of the printed images, and printing as a second time on the printing medium, the whole printed image can be easily adjusted.

The image treating device has an image input
20 device for reading the images to input the datas of the
images, an image recording device for recording the
input datas of the images, an image combining device
for converting compositely the recorded datas of the
images to the image data for printing the continuous
25 arrangement thereof, an image printing device for
printing the compositely converted image datas on the
continuous printing medium, and an image editing device
for editing the datas of the images recorded by the

5 corresponding to unsatisfactory one of the printed
images, and printing as a second time on the printing
medium.

The image editing device may insert a data of another image to a desired position between the datas of the images recorded by the image recording device, so that a manuscript failed to be read by any reason is read, and a data of the read image is inserted to a lacked position to obtain a desired composite image.

The image editing device may delete desired one of the datas of the images recorded by the image recording device, so that an unnecessary image is
25 deleted from the composite image to obtain the desired composite image without reading again all of the images.

The image treating device according to the invention has the image input device for reading the

manuscripts to input the datas of the images, the image recording device for recording the input datas of the images, and the image combining device for converting compositely the recorded datas of the images to the
5 image data for printing the continuous arrangement thereof. According to the invention, since, the manuscripts can be arranged appropriately and the arrangement of the manuscripts can be understood easily.

Since the continuous arrangement of the
10 manuscripts can be continuously output even if the manuscripts have non-standard sizes or respective sizes different from each other, by the image treating device having the image input device for reading the manuscripts to input the datas of the images, the image
15 recording device for recording the input datas of the images, and the image combining device for converting compositely the recorded datas of the images to the image data for printing the continuous arrangement thereof, the appropriate arrangement of the manuscripts
20 can be output, and be printed out by a printer.

The image input device may input the datas of the images expanded or contracted according to the size or dimensions of the manuscripts to be converted to the data of the image for printing the whole of each of the
25 manuscripts by an arrangement with the expansion or reduction according to the size or dimensions of the manuscripts to be read.

By the image treating device having the image

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recording device for recording the datas of the images supplied from a data source, and the image combining device for converting compositely the recorded datas of the images to the image data for printing the continuous arrangement thereof, the continuous arrangement of the images can be output even if the images supplied from the data source have non-standard sizes or respective sizes different from each other.

The image treating device may further has a printing device for printing on a continuous printing medium the image data after conversion, so that the continuous arrangement of the images can be printed on the printing medium and the appropriate arrangement of the manuscripts is output.

15 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a block diagram showing an image treating apparatus in an embodiment form of the invention.

Fig. 2 is a flow chart of treatment in the image treating apparatus shown in Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is an explanation view showing that a desired one of datas of images included by an image data of a composite image is replaced by another image data.

Fig. 4 is an explanation view showing that a desired one of datas of images, included by an image data of a composite image with two juxtaposed image-

arrays in a transverse direction, is replaced by another image data.

Fig. 5 is an explanation view showing that another data image is introduced to a desired position
5 between datas of images included by an image data of a composite image with two juxtaposed image-arrays in a transverse direction.

Fig. 6 is an explanation view showing that a desired one of datas of images included by an image
10 data of a composite image with two juxtaposed image-arrays in a transverse direction, is deleted.

Fig. 7 is a block diagram showing an image treating apparatus in an embodiment form of the invention.

15 Fig. 8 is a flow chart of treatment in the image treating apparatus shown in Fig. 7.

Fig. 9 is an explanation view showing a relationship between manuscripts to be read by an image input device and an image to be printed by an image
20 printing device.

Fig. 10 is an explanation view showing another relationship between the manuscripts to be read by the image input device and the image to be printed by the image printing device.

25 Fig. 11 is a view showing another form of the image for the manuscripts as shown in Fig. 10.

Fig. 12 is an explanation view showing another relationship between the manuscripts to be read

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The image input device 1 has a manuscript width detector 6 for detecting a width of the image or manuscript to be read, a parameter selector 7 for selecting a parameter to order an arrangement form of the output images on the printing medium or the composite image, a magnification determining device 8 for determining a magnification on reading the image (corresponding to a ratio between a number of image-reader picture-elements for converting the image to be read to an image data and a width of the image to be read, a ratio between the number of image-reader

The image input device 1 has a manuscript width detector 6 for detecting a width of the image or manuscript to be read, a parameter selector 7 for selecting a parameter to order an arrangement form of the output images on the printing medium or the composite image, a magnification determining device 8 for determining a magnification on reading the image (corresponding to a ratio between a number of image-reader picture-elements for converting the image to be read to an image data and a width of the image to be read, a ratio between the number of image-reader

The image recording device 2 stores therein the datas of the images input by the image input device 1 to be treated by the image combining device 3. In

The image recording device 2 stores therein the datas of the images input by the image input device 1 to be treated by the image combining device 3. In

this case, the datas of the images in an order in which the datas of the images are input by the image input device 1 is recorded by the image recording device 2.

The image combining device 3 combines the
5 recorded datas of the images to the data of the composite image for printing the continuous arrangement of the images on the printing medium. In this case, the printing medium is a continuously rolled paper.

The image editing device 5 controls how the
10 image combining device 3 combines the recorded datas of the images to the data of the composite image to edit the data of the composite image while determining the arrangement of the images in the composite image by, replacing and/or deleting the data of the image
15 recorded by the image recording device 2, selecting the datas of the images to be fed from the image recording device 2 to the image combining device 3, determining an order in which the datas of the images are fed from the image recording device 2 to the image combining
20 device 3, inserting another image data between datas of the images, and/or adding the another image data, on the basis of the detection result of the manuscript width detector 6 and/or the selection result of the parameter selector 7, that is, a condition of the image
25 to be read and a desired composite image.

In an operation of the image treating apparatus, as a start, after the manuscript is set on the image input device 1, parameters (a size of a

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5 (S100), and a start-key of the image treating apparatus
is pushed down (S101).

10 manuscript is detected by the manuscript width detector
6 (S103). The parameter selector 7 detects the
previously instructed parameters (S104), and the
magnification on reading the manuscript is determined
by the magnification determining device 8 in accordance
15 with the width of each of the manuscripts detected by
the manuscript width detector 6 (S105). Incidentally,
in this embodiment, since all of the manuscripts have
the same width and the printing is performed on the
rolled paper of the same width of these manuscripts,
20 the magnification on reading the manuscripts is
constantly 100%.

25 device 8 to input the data of the image (S106). When the edit mode is the addition mode, decisions at steps S107 and S108 are "No", and at step S109, the input data of the image is additionally stored as the last

page in the datas of the images recorded in the image recording device 2. Thereafter, the manuscript is set again on the image input device and the parameters are set (S100), and the start-key is pushed down to read subsequent one of the manuscripts so that the treating is repeated. When the edit mode is the addition mode, the manuscripts are read to be input in an order by the image input device so that the datas of the images are respectively stored in the image recording device 2.

10 When the start-key is pushed down while the manuscript is not set, it is decided that all of the manuscript images have been completely input (S102). Subsequently, the datas of the manuscript images recorded by the image recording device 2 are taken out successively (S113), and are combined compositely to the data of the image by the image combining device 3 to be printed on the printing medium. Since single image array in the traverse direction is arranged in an example shown in Fig. 3, the datas of the images are printed on the rolled paper by the image printing device without specific composite treatment. Further, subsequent one of the datas of the images is taken out (S113), and arranged onto a next step in a rolled direction of the rolled paper (vertical direction in Fig. 3) in the order so that all of the images are completely printed (S116).

If one of the images (11)-(14) printed on the rolled paper is unsatisfactory in printing quality, the

In the composite image shown in Fig. 4, a desired one image data in the datas of the images included by the data of the composite image with two image arrays in the transverse direction is replaced by another image data. Ten manuscripts are read through the steps S100-S109 to be recorded in the image recording device 2, similarly to the first embodiment. Since all of the manuscripts have the same width and the two image arrays in the transverse direction are printed on the rolled paper of the same width with the manuscripts, the magnification on reading the manuscripts is constantly 50%. In this case, the widths of the two image arrays in the transverse direction are equal to each other.

After all of the manuscript images are completely input, the datas for two images recorded in the image recording device 2 are output (S113), and are combined compositely to the data of the image to be printed on the printing medium by the image printing device 3 (S114). As shown in Fig. 4, the datas for two images recorded in the image recording device 2 are combined to be arranged in the order from left to right, and the data of the composite image is printed on the rolled paper by the image printing device 4 (S115).

The datas for further two images are output (S113), and arranged onto a next stage in the rolled direction of the rolled paper in the order. Gaps A, B, C and D are formed between the stages of the images to

make positions of upper edges of the images juxtaposed in the transverse direction equal to each other if the two manuscripts to be juxtaposed in the transverse direction are different from each other in length, and
5 all of the images are completely printed.

If one of the images (11)-(20) printed on the rolled paper is unsatisfactory in printing quality, the operation mode is set to the replacement mode, and the steps S100, S101-S107 and S110-S111 are performed so
10 that the data of the image corresponding to the image (18) of the page to be replaced in the datas of the images recorded in the image recording device is edited by the image editing device 5. Thereafter, the datas of the images are printed on the rolled paper through
15 the steps S100-S102 and S113-S116, so that the printed image in which the image (18) is replaced is obtained.

As described above, the datas of the images recorded by reading the manuscripts are combined to the data of the composite image including the continuous
20 arrangement in the plurality of the image arrays, and the manuscript corresponding to the image in the composite image unsatisfactory in printing quality is read again to obtain a data of an image to be substituted for the image unsatisfactory in printing
25 quality, so that the printing quality is wholly adjusted easily.

(third embodiment)

In the composite image shown in Fig. 5,

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another image is inserted to a desired position in the composite image including the two image arrays juxtaposed in the transverse direction. The another image is inserted between the image (11) and the image (22). In the composite image as a part (a) of Fig. 5, when the another image (18a) is inserted between the image (17) and the image (18), a manuscript of the another image (18a) is set on the image input device 1, and the parameter is set on the operation panel for the insertion mode as the edit mode. In response to the pushing down of the start key, as described above, the steps S102-S107 are performed, it is checked that the edit mode is the insertion mode (S108), and the insertion step (S112) is performed.

In the insertion step (S112), the another image (18a) is inserted to a desired position in the datas of the images recorded by the image recording device 2. The images (18)-(20) to be behind the inserted another image (18a) are carried down one by one. Thereafter, the datas of the images are combined again by the image combining device 3 through the steps S100-S102 and S113-S116 to be printed onto the rolled paper and output compositely as shown in a part (b) of Fig. 5. Clearances E and F between the images are automatically reformed.

As described above, only a manuscript failed to be read is read, and the read-in data of the image is inserted to the desired position to obtain a really

desired composite image. That is, only the image to be inserted is read to easily adjust wholly the printing quality without reading again all of the images.

(fourth embodiment)

5 In the composite image shown in Fig. 6, a desired data of an image included by the composite image with the two image arrays in the transverse direction is deleted. In the composite image as a part (a) of Fig. 6, when the image (18) between the image
10 (17) and the image (19) is unnecessary, a page to be deleted is set on the operation panel (S100). In response to the pushing down of the start key, the data of the images (18) in the datas of the images recorded by the image recording device 2 is deleted by the image
15 editing device. The images (19) and (20) to be behind the deleted image (18) are automatically carried up one by one. Thereafter, the datas of the images are combined again by the image combining device 3 through the steps S100-S102 and S113-S116 to be printed on the
20 rolled paper and output compositely as shown in a part (b) of Fig. 6. The clearance G between the images is automatically reformed.

As described above, when the unnecessary image is included by the composite image, only the
25 unnecessary image is deleted to obtain the really desired composite image. That is, only the unnecessary image is deleted to easily adjust wholly the printing quality without reading again all of the images.

An image treating apparatus shown in Fig.

7 has an image input device 101 for reading the manuscripts to input the datas of the images, an image recording device 102 for storing the datas of the images input by the image input device 101, an image combining device 103 for combining the recorded datas of the images to a data of a composite image, and an image printing device 104 for printing on the printing medium on the basis of the datas of the images treated by the image combining device 103.

The image input device 101 has a manuscript width detector 105 for detecting a width of the image or manuscript to be read, a parameter selector 106 for selecting a parameter to order an arrangement form of the images in the output composite image, a magnification determining device 107 for determining the magnification on reading the image on the basis of the detection result of the manuscript width detector 105 and the selection result of the parameter selector 106, and an image reader 108 for reading the manuscript or image to be read at the magnification determined by the magnification determining device 107. The manuscript width detector 105 detects the width of each of the manuscripts or images of non-standard sizes or different sizes to be read by the image reader 108. The parameter selector 106 orders the size of the printing medium output by the image printing device 104 or composite image printed thereby, and how the images

are output onto the printing medium or how the images are arranged on the composite image. The arrangement form of the images on the printing medium or the composite image ordered by the parameter selector 106 is described below.

The magnification determining device 107 calculates the magnification on reading the manuscript or image at the image reader 108 on the basis of the width of the image or manuscript detected by the manuscript width detector 105, and the size of the printing medium or composite image and the arrangement form of the images ordered by the parameter selector 6. For example, when the width of the manuscript is 297 mm, the size (width) of the printing medium is 210 mm and the arrangement form of the output images is two juxtaposed image-arrays in a transverse direction, the magnification on reading the manuscript or image is about 35%.

The image reader 108 reads the manuscript or image in accordance with the magnification on reading the manuscript as determined by the magnification determining device 107. By the image input device 101 as described above, the data of the image expanded or contracted at the magnification on reading the manuscript or image as determined by the magnification determining device 107 on the basis of the size or dimension of each of the manuscripts or images detected by the manuscript width detector 107 is input.

The image recording device 102 stores therein the datas of the images input by the image input device 101 to be treated by the image combining device 103. In this case, the datas of the images in an order in which the datas of the images are input by the image input device 101 are recorded by the image recording device 102. The image combining device 103 converts and combines the datas of the images recorded in the image recording device 102 to the data of the composite image including the image arrays arranged continuously by the image printing device 104. The image printing device 104 prints the composite image on the printing medium on the basis of the data of the composite image. In this case, the printing medium is the continuously rolled paper.

In the manuscripts (111)-(120) shown in a part (b) of Fig. 9, all of lateral widths (widths in a transverse direction of Fig. 9) are the same, but longitudinal lengths (lengths in a longitudinal direction of Fig. 9) are different from each other. Along a flow chart shown in Fig. 8, how these manuscripts (111)-(120) are arranged and printed out in two image arrays in the transverse direction onto the rolled paper as shown in a part (b) of Fig. 9 is explained. In this case, the rolled paper shown in the part (b) of Fig. 9 is rolled in the longitudinal direction in Fig. 9, and the width thereof in a perpendicular direction to the rolled direction (the

transverse direction in Fig. 9) is the same with the manuscripts (111)-(120).

As a start, after the manuscript is set on the image input device 101, parameters (the size of the rolled paper, the output image arrangement or the like) are set on the operation panel of the image treating apparatus (S1100), and the start-key of the image treating apparatus is pushed down (S1101). After the image input device 101 checks as to whether the manuscript has been set to confirm that the manuscript has been set (S1102), the width of the manuscript is detected by the manuscript width detector 105 (S1103). The parameter selector 106 detects the previously instructed parameters (S1104), and the magnification on reading the manuscript is determined by the magnification determining device 107 in accordance with the width of each of the manuscripts detected by the manuscript width detector 105 (S1105). Incidentally, in this embodiment, since all of the manuscripts (111)-(120) have the same width and the printing is performed in the two image arrays in the transverse direction on the rolled paper of the same width with these manuscripts (111)-(120), the magnification on reading the manuscripts or images is constantly 50%. In this case, widths of the two image arrays in the transverse direction are equal to each other.

The manuscript is read by the image reader 108 according to the magnification on reading the

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manuscripts determined by the magnification determining device 107 to input the data of the image (S1106).

The input data of the image is stored in the image recording device 102 (S1107). Thereafter, the

5 manuscript is set again on the image input device 101 and the parameters are set (S1100), and the start-key is pushed down to read subsequent one of the manuscripts to input the data of the image (S1101). The manuscripts (111)-(120) are read to be input in an
10 order by the image input device 101 so that the datas of the images are respectively stored in the image recording device 102.

When the start-key is pushed down while the manuscript is not set, it is decided that all of the
15 manuscript images have been completely input (S1102). Subsequently, the datas of the manuscript images of two pages recorded by the image recording device 2 are taken out (S1108), and a formation of the data of the composite image is started by the image combining
20 device 3 to be printed on the printing medium (S1109). As shown in the part (b) of Fig. 9, the datas of the manuscripts images stored in the image recording device 102 are combined in such a manner that the images of the two pages are arranged in order in the transverse
25 direction on the composite image, and the data of the composite image of the combined images is fed to the image printing device 4 so that the composite image is printed out onto the rolled paper (S110).

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Incidentally, the image printing device 104 may be separated from the image treating apparatus of the invention, so that the data of the composite image is output to a printer device or the like including the image printing device 4 to be printed. That is, the manuscript images are input from the image input device 101 such as a scanner or the like connected to a computer or the like, and the image printing device 104 such as the printer is connected to the computer to obtain operations and effects as described above.

The manuscripts (121)-(130) shown in Fig. 10

20 As described above, even when the manuscripts
have non-standard sizes different from each other, the
data of the image expanded or contracted in accordance
with the width of each of the manuscripts (121)-(130)
is input to arrange the images in such a manner that
25 the whole of each of the manuscripts is printed, so
that the whole arrangement of the images can be easily
known and the whole of each of the manuscripts can be
confirmed.

20 As described above, even when the manuscripts
have non-standard sizes different from each other, the
data of the image expanded or contracted in accordance
with the width of each of the manuscripts (121)-(130)
is input to arrange the images in such a manner that
25 the whole of each of the manuscripts is printed, so
that the whole arrangement of the images can be easily
known and the whole of each of the manuscripts can be
confirmed.

In the composite image shown in Fig. 11, the magnification on reading is set constantly at 50% by the magnification determining device 7 irrespective of the width of the each of the manuscripts (121)-(130).

5 The images of the manuscripts (121)-(130) are arranged
in such a manner that upper left ends of the manuscript
images are set at a left end and a center of the rolled
paper. In this case, vacant areas adjacent to right
side of the manuscript images (shown by cross-hatching)
10 and over-flow areas of the right side of the manuscript
images (shown by hatching) are disregarded, and
clearances are formed between the images of the stages
juxtaposed in the rolled direction of the rolled paper.
In this arrangement, the whole arrangement of the
15 manuscripts can be known.

In the composite image shown in Fig. 12, when the images of the manuscripts (131)-(140) are arranged in the rolled direction of the rolled paper, it is not carried out that the positions of the upper ends of the images juxtaposed in the transverse direction are equal to each other as shown in a part (a) of Fig. 12, but the positions of the upper ends of the images and positions of lower ends of the images in each pair of the stages are made equal to each other as shown in a part (b) of Fig. 12. In the part (b) of Fig. 12, the images (131)-(134) of first and second stages are arranged close to each other, and the positions of the lower ends of the images (135)-(136) in third stage are

By arranging the images in the each pair of the stages close to each other without making the positions of the lower or upper ends of the images (135)-(136) in each stage equal to each other, the clearances formed between the manuscripts of the respective stages are reduced, and an amount of the rolled to be used can be decreased.

In another embodiment, the treatment may be performed on the basis of the datas of the images formed by using the computer without the image input device 101 of the above described embodiments. In this case, the datas of the images formed by using the computer are stored in a memory on the computer, the datas of the images fed from the data source such as the memory are recorded in the image recording device 102, and the treatment thereafter may be performed as the above described processes.